

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2, 3, 9, 11-21, 25 and 26 remain in this application. Claims 22 –24 have been canceled.
New claims 27 and 28 have been added.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 14-21 and 25-26 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Moya.
Applicant disagrees.

The claims make clear the present invention uses a porous membrane as its starting material. Area(s) of non-porous material are created in the porous membrane as taught by the specification of the present invention so that they collapse and are fused into a non-porous mass. The rest of the areas of the porous membrane remain porous throughout.

This is quite unlike that of the cited reference. The reference teaching forming porous areas in an otherwise non-porous substrate, the exact opposite of the present claimed invention which uses a porous substrate such as a membrane and then has nonporous areas of collapsed and fused material.

The cited reference fails to teach each and every element of the claims, e.g. a using a porous membrane having nonporous areas formed in it, and as such it fails to anticipate the current claims.

New claim 27 is a combination of claim 2 with the method steps of amended claim 13. New claim 28 is a combination of claim 25 with the method steps of amended claim 13. Both are believed to be patentable over the reference for the reasons stated above in regard to claim 2.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks.

Appl 09/661,920

Amdt dated November 29, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2004



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dana Hubbard".

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